

A meeting of the **Civic Center Priority Task Force (CCPTF)** was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at 7:30 P.M., at City Hall in the Council Board Room. Brian Wattles called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

ROLL CALL: all present

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Bernardi (Troy Citizens United)
Leonard Bertin (Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities)
Ann Partlan (Historic District Commission)
Ryan Deel (Traffic Committee)
Catherine Herzog (Troy Youth Council)
Michelle Hodges (Troy Shareholders) (Vice-chair CCPTF)
Jeff Biegler, Superintendent of Parks

Tom Krent (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board)
Mark Maxwell (Board of Zoning Appeals)
David Ogg (Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens)
Carol Price (Downtown Development Authority)
Walter Storrs (Planning Commission)
Brian Wattles (Historical Commission) (Chair CCPTF)

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Fitzpatrick, Assistant to the City Manager

1. Minutes

Resolution # CCPTF-2003-09-001

Moved by Deel

Seconded by Hodges

RESOLVED, that the minutes of September 3, 2003 meeting be approved.

Yes: All

No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discuss observations from bus tour of the Civic Center campus

Notes: 1)Each check mark generally represents a switch in speaker or break in conversation.

2)These are not verbatim minutes.

- ✓ No connection between elements; car-friendly, not pedestrian friendly
- ✓ A lot of space devoted to parking/cars as opposed to the footprints of the buildings
- ✓ Possibility of creating space by being intelligent about where we put elements/parking; the option of closing streets to create space
- ✓ Troy Daze on site - site too small
- ✓ Surprised how little land we have with which to work
- ✓ Something to attract people to the site – ethnic festivals
- ✓ Site seems very disconnected from the businesses – how to connect 16 mile road to the site
- ✓ Between I-75 and the road there is a lot of property – what can we use it for? Jogging path?

- ✓ Copies of concept plan for park site east of Livernois provided to the group
- ✓ City of Auburn Hills River Walk in Auburn Hills (on Squirrel Road)– 25 acres; Civic Center Site ~21.18 acres (< 25 acres) (without the “L”); with the “L” = 25 acres; a possibility if the voters vote to use the “L” for recreational purposes; has heard that Beverly Hills has a nice park to see
- ✓ Currently the property seems to be divided between active and passive
- ✓ Amphi-theater options – show outdoor movies on the weekend; old movies, musicals, kids movies, etc.
- ✓ There is a natural slope by the Library – for an amphitheater entertainment pointing toward I-75 – better for noise
- ✓ Near the Reflective Head – a maze of vegetation; something that the people could go to by foot; pretty to look at from the road; fun to work through the maze; ancient Troy had a maze as a buffer to the rest of the world; does not have to be the whole space, could be a small part
- ✓ Outdoor skating rink by Reflective Head – fountain in the summer and ice surface in the winter
- ✓ Another location option for the ice rink would be by the Skate Park
- ✓ Must take into account the Reflective Head and Police Entrance in acreage calculations; there is not a lot with which to work; smaller portions of land, sections
- ✓ At this point there is no place for anyone to sit down and rest – benches needed

3. Procedure re: Information Requests of Staff

- ✓ Make requests at the meetings, at the table – the CCPTF as a whole will consider the request

4. Alternates

- ✓ **Speaking Opportunities** – alternates could use the note-passing method

5. Round the table discussion of ideas and suggestions from all members

- ✓ Get something going fairly fast so that the community sees we are doing something; higher priority on the smaller things
 1. Outdoor Ice Rink
 2. Gathering Spaces & Picnic Area
 3. Fountain Plaza
 4. Restrooms in a central area
 5. Walkways – Civic & Community Greens
- ✓ Interest in attracting business people to site during day; Did some Central Park research – destination points in the park – diverse activities; distributed pages from web site; we are building something that can be added to for the next 100 years – let’s make a foundation – leave space for the next generation
- ✓ Restroom buildings located in a couple of different areas on the site, important on an active site; also the importance of benches – benches are a popular request in the parks
- ✓ Appropriate vendors for summer fountain vs. winter ice rink (vending could change with the season); warming booth @ skate area secluded area – resting area
- ✓ Areas for disc golf, shuffleboard, other games, etc.
Also, a Carousel would be nice; food carts and vendor areas; art park; small, folksy theater; we have a nice thing going now with summer concerts; would like to see us

make a plan that would include the 7-11 acres so that if the voters allow us to have those acres we do not have to go back to the drawing board; Also, the voters need to see what is possible without a conference center/with the land devoted to recreational uses

- ✓ Disagrees about the outdoor ice rink – cheap to install, but not cheap to maintain; we must consider maintenance costs; when we address the trails, wants to see a sign with the description of the route and where it goes, etc.
- ✓ re: ice rink, winters are getting warmer; it is expensive to maintain
- ✓ likes ice rink idea; does not seem expensive to maintain
- ✓ Biegler shared that Troy used to have “magic squares” – winter ice surfaces (basketball in the summer); they were a lot of maintenance – and snow would also interfere with preparing surface
- ✓ What can we do to draw people into the site? What type of entity could encompass this diverse range of people? – The Library – expansion of the Library; Partnership with colleges; space north of the Library to add onto it
Advocate for connectivity of the buildings; walking
- ✓ Extend the Peace Garden– check out the Peace Garden if you have not done so already

Can the creek onsite be used for a winter ice rink?

- ✓ Landscaping near the reflective head; Art Park – consider small spaces, instead of one dedicated site

Look at connective walkways as a jogging path, too; expand along outer rim road with covered bridges over creek with seating areas.

The jogging path along the roadways should be tied into the one in Huber Park –so you’d have the option of combining them; it would be interesting to extend a path up the hill behind the Aquatic Center – physically/athletically challenging – everything does not have to be a flat grade

Picnicking areas – pictures from Auburn Hills - covered areas

In order to attract business people to the park during the work day – a shuttle run with the City bus up Big Beaver – 2 or 3 runs between 11 AM and 1 PM; mobile lunch vendors in site to attract them

- ✓ wonderful ideas at the table; Ogg’s proposal is great – coherent; involves passive elements and elements with which everyone at the table can agree; a good framework from which to start; casual outdoor ice rinks can work – a good draw when it is cold

Caution against making a plan that includes the 7-11 acres set aside for potential private development; consider the scope of what the CCPTF has been called upon to do

- ✓ Well-thought out wish list is important; if we can harness all the great things we have seen, we will really have achieved something; be careful to make sure a broad range of stakeholders can use the site

Treehouse idea; peace garden; historical society involvement

Consider the programming for the site – i.e. trick-or-treating programs, Easter egg hunts, nature walks, amenities to parents, movie idea, sledding, art fairs, family & company picnics, clown program for kids, puppets, merri-go-round, ferris wheel, holiday displays, vendors of community made products, wireless access points for business people on lunch breaks (compete in new economy), petting farms,

community policing, mini-motorized sailboats on the water, wagons to transport picnic equipment – those things add substance to the site

Give the site a 12-month life

Also, throughout the process think of creative ways to pay for these things

Alternate revenue source – ?

- ✓ Re: Also discussing what elements could go in the “L” section around the Marriott (mentioned earlier in the meeting- 5th check mark above), it was decided that the purpose of the CCPTF, per the resolution, was to discuss other areas of the site, not the “L” area.

6. Review proposed structure for six meeting schedule

PROPOSED

- ✓ 1st four meetings – get solid ideas
- ✓ Then, in November, poll task force and prioritize and professionals will have one month to do drawings, sketches, budget estimates to have for December

7. Detailed discussion of pedestrian paths – we seem to all agree we want paths

- ✓ Path with public art along it
- ✓ Idea: Community Center to Library to rim road to grand circle to reflective head, etc. A surface conducive to joggers; take advantage of the creek – path along the water course; concrete sidewalks are not good for jogging
- ✓ Idea: Around ring road or along the creek – 2 path options that will not interfere with other elements we may choose
- ✓ Also, if path came near Marriott, that would be an amenity to hotel guests
- ✓ Biegler: notes that soft jogging surfaces for an open path will be a maintenance challenge
- ✓ Strolling path brick – for leisure strolling; next to it bike path – side-by-side lanes to avoid traffic jams; use bridge ways to go over traffic areas to avoid conflict with traffic
- Fitness path vs. walking path to connect buildings
 - Come back in 2 weeks re: what want to recommend in terms of pathways (Consensus of CCPTF is that #1 priority is paths)
 - Let's look at entire list and prioritize what to talk about next – rank list – prioritize order – get a top ten
 - Everyone bring your top five elements to next meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Reminder Next Meeting: **September 24** 7:30 P.M.
Location: City Hall – 2nd Floor – Council Board Room

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Brian Wattles, Meeting Chair

Laura Fitzpatrick, Assistant to the City Manager